

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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JANUARY 6, 2005

Beltsville Airfield: Adventure On the Internet, in the Field

by Timothy G. Smith

Timothy G. Smith, the reporter or storyteller here, is a Bowie resident, internet enthusiast and father of a nine-year-old boy. His story revolves around interesting places near Greenbelt and a Greenbelt father and son.

Smith, while transporting his son to CYO basketball games in Laurel, passed signs for the National Wild Life Visitor Center on Powder Mill Road. It looked like a good spot for some father and son outings. But looking at an old map, what caught his immediate interest was the airfield next door with "two crossing runways. Each runway was more than 4,000 feet long. I was amazed," wrote Smith. "I had no idea that an airfield making that large a footprint existed" nearby.

He searched the internet to find published aerial and satellite photographs. He struck gold through Google, finding pages of information on a website named "Little Known and Abandoned Airfields." The field, he discovered, dated to the 1930s and had been a WPA project. The Navy took over during World War II using it for training. The field was returned to the Agriculture Department after the war but other agencies made use of it. Rumors suggested CIA activities during the '50s and '60s.

The rumor Smith chose to follow claimed a DC-3 (or C-47) had crashed on the site and might not have been recovered. He next learned from a Navy veterans website, vnavy.org of a "man whose father was killed during WWII when he was just seven years old. He was looking for anyone who could tell him stories about the father, his wartime adventures and the type of man he was."

Part I

The father's name was U.S. Navy Lieutenant William O. Needham. His son is Bill Needham, Jr.

Bill Needham was having a good bit of success in obtaining information about his father. Several people had responded to his posting and the website published much of what came in.

I learned that Lt. Needham was a true American hero. With movie star good looks (he could double for Clark Gable), he joined the Navy as an enlisted man in 1929 and served most of his active duty in the Atlantic fleet. He rose up through the ranks and in 1937 was designated as a Navy Aviation Pilot, an extremely rare occurrence for an enlisted man. In June 1942 he was confirmed as a warrant officer and in July was promoted to the rank of ensign for temporary service.

Needham earned a reputation as a fine airman and an excellent pilot. This reputation landed him a choice assignment to serve as chief pilot for Vice Admiral John S. McCain, Sr., hero of the island-hopping campaigns in the Pacific and the grandfather of Senator John S. McCain, III, of Arizona. Needham fought bravely in the early years of the war and in 1943 received well-earned orders for shore duty.

Needham's shore duty assignment was at Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C. While at Anacostia, Needham



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. COAST GUARD

The Lockheed Lodestar R-50 is the type of plane that Lt. William Needham was flying when he crashed in 1945 at the Beltsville Airfield. It is similar in appearance to a DC-3.

lived with his wife and two children on Hillside Road in Greenbelt. Early during this tour of duty Needham was promoted to the rank of lieutenant junior grade. In mid-May of 1943 he was promoted to full lieutenant. Two years later, on May 17, 1945, Lt. Needham was killed in a plane crash near Beltsville. As luck would have it, this tragedy happened less than five miles from his home. At the time of his death Lt. Needham was serving as chief pilot for Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch, chief of Naval Operations for Air and hero of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Was it possible that the wreckage rumored to be in the woods at Beltsville was from Lt. Needham's airplane? Had I stumbled upon an important artifact from World War II right near my own hometown? Of course it was possible. But the only way to prove it was to uncover

more information.

What type of airplane did Lt. Needham crash? Could it have been a C-47? If so, why had the Navy failed to recover the wreckage? This mystery was growing fast.

The more I thought about it, the more it made sense. I developed a theory about how and why the wreckage might never have been recovered. There were several important factors to consider:

First, the crash apparently occurred on posted government land (now Beltsville Agricultural Research Center) with extremely limited public access. This land is heavily forested and has been closed to the public since before World War II. The people most likely to have stumbled upon the wreckage were government personnel on official business or

See **PLANE CRASH**, page 6

County Municipalities Take Varying Positions on ICC

by James Giese

Other county jurisdictions have shown mixed reactions regarding the proposed construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC), unlike the Greenbelt City Council, which has long been strongly opposed to the planned super-highway. The ICC would cross Montgomery County and end at U.S. 1 or I-95 in Prince George's County south of Laurel.

Greenbelt officials fear that such a highway will be tied into a proposed extension of Kenilworth Avenue, resulting in Montgomery County eastbound traffic being funneled into Greenbelt. The neighboring cities of College Park and Bowie also are concerned with potential traffic impacts from building the ICC.

College Park strongly opposes building the highway. It is particularly concerned about the road's impact on streams that

flow through the city. Bowie, however, is opposed only to its construction east of I-95. That city took no position on the remainder of the highway. Its council fears funneling of traffic from the ICC along Maryland Route 197, the Laurel-Bowie Road into Bowie.

On November 24, the Laurel City Council took a position in support of everything opposed by the other three cities. Specifically Laurel's resolution supports the Corridor 1 alternative, provided that the alignment continues easterly until reaching Kenilworth Avenue extended or U.S. Route 1.

The Laurel council also supports construction of a proposed interchange with I-95 at about Muirkirk Road. Further, Laurel's council specifically endorsed construction of an extension of

See **ICC**, page 2



PHOTO BY RANDY CRENWELGE

Greenbelters from bottom left: Scott Wilson, Deron Jarvas, Jose Aparicio, Michael Chiddo and Michael Inzeo. Top left: David Parks, James Bowman, John Vickars, Joshua Heskett, Tyler Kuamoo and Murray Fisk. Daniel Jett is not shown.

National Guard Company To Be Deployed Soon to Iraq

by Randy Crenwelge

Thirteen members from Greenbelt from the Maryland National Guard Charlie Company, 115th Infantry, have been given their orders. They are to report on January 7 to Fort Stewart, Ga., for approximately 100 days of intense training.

The Army National Guard won't tell these soldiers what they are being trained for. All they have been told is to be prepared to serve in Iraq. At Fort Stewart they will refresh their infantry skills, learn new ones and undergo rigorous testing. They will train until they have passed all their tests. At day 100 they should be on their way to Iraq.

These National Guardsmen (NG) do not know when their period of mobilization will end. They expect approximately a year. Everyone in Charlie Company who is eligible and has volunteered to serve has been deployed or is in the process of being deployed.

When asked what their families thought about their being deployed to Iraq, the soldiers responded by saying that their families are not extremely happy about it. Their wives knew when they married them that they were soldiers and this day could come.

"My wife is pregnant with a baby boy on the way. I won't get to be here when Joseph Anthony Herbert Inzeo is born," said PFC Michael Inzeo, an electrical technician. "I have a job to do and I am not going to back down what I committed myself to do by enlisting in the Maryland National Guard," he said. Others in the group are Sgt. John Vicars, who manages a landscaping company in civilian life; SPC Michael Chiddo, an electrician apprentice; Sgt. Joshua Heskett, a network engineer with CACI; and PFC Jose

See **GUARD**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, January 10

7 p.m., Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center

8 p.m., Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

Tuesday, January 11

7:30 p.m., Board of Elections Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, January 12

8 p.m., City Council Worksession on FY2004 Financial Report, Community Center

Thursday, January 13

7:30 p.m., GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room

Public Hearing Schedule for ICC

A series of public hearings are scheduled on the construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC).

Saturday, January 8

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring

Saturday, January 22

9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Blake High School, 300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring

Letters to the Editor

THANKS

On behalf of the Greenbelt New Year's Eve Committee, I would like to thank all who attended the celebration. It is the committee's hope that everyone had a great time – it appeared that everyone did.

A big thanks goes to the Greenbelt Recreation, Public Works and Police Departments for their invaluable support and coordination with the committee. Without them there would be no celebration. The entertainers as well as Sight & Sound DJs and Talk of the Town provided talent and professionalism which made for great shows all night long. Thanks to the Greenbelt Swim Team for some really wacky hairstyles, the artists at the Community Center for some creative arts and crafts, the St. Hugh's Home and School Organization, Girl Scout Troop 2142 and Chef Lou for providing good food all evening, Chris Cherry, Chris Fominaya (and others) for the entertainment at the Arts Center and GAVA for its show at the movie theater. The New Deal Café is to be thanked for its "first breakfast of 2005" offering and for its great jazz!

A big thanks goes to all of the businesses and individuals who provided monetary support for the celebration, especially the Greenbelt Co-op for selling discount wristbands prior to the celebration.

And last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize the wonderful members of the committee and the volunteers who worked that evening. The celebration would not be possible without you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

See you next year.
Patti Brothers,
President
Greenbelt New Year's
Eve Committee

Grinch on Plateau?

To My Neighbors in 6 Court Plateau Place:

I came home today to a most distressing sight. I have some very simple Christmas lights strung on the fence of the service side of our yard at 6-Z-1. Someone cut one of the strands of lights and a second strand of lights had a nick in the wire covering.

We leave our Christmas lights on from dusk to dawn in the hopes that everyone gets a chance to enjoy them. Apparently someone either does not like the lights or else has way too much time on their hands. If the lights have bothered any of our neighbors, we would hope that they would either leave us a note or come and talk to us about the lights.

Our hope was to replace the larger bulbs that we have been using to smaller lights but since this incident has happened I am not sure that I want to bother to light up the fence line in years to come. This does not mean that we won't have outside lights – it just means that we may have to make it a little harder for wire snippers to reach our lights.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Patty McLeod
(the light stringer)
and Neil McLeod
(the tolerant husband and
light repairer)



To All Our Dear Friends
in Greenbelt
A Happy & Healthy
New Year!
Larry & Maria White
& Family

ICC continued from page 1

Kenilworth Avenue to connect with the Contee Road interchange and allow secondary access to Van Dusen Road in Laurel.

In explanation of its position, the Laurel council stated that it was important to form a regional network of roads to accommodate both regional and local traffic. To achieve this outcome, the council urges a change in the Master Plan route for an extended Kenilworth Avenue to turn westward following its intersection with Van Dusen Road and to intersect I-95 at the Contee Road interchange. Council contends that this change is necessary to provide needed access to the proposed Konterra Town Center and to allow secondary access to motorists wishing to continue northerly along Van Dusen Road into Laurel.

According to Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis, the Town of Berwyn Heights also supports construction of the ICC provided that a proposed parallel bicycle path is constructed as part of the project. The bicycle path is no longer part of the proposal because the State believes it to be too costly.

County Position

The Prince George's County government is divided on the ICC issue. Seven of the nine

members of the county council proposed and supported a resolution last June opposing the ICC in its entirety. Among these opponents were Douglas Peters, who represents the Greenbelt-Bowie council district, and Thomas E. Dernoga and Thomas Hendershot, who represent Greenbelt's neighboring jurisdictions.

County council declared a number of reasons for its opposition. It believes that the ICC will draw economic and investment jobs out of Prince George's County to Montgomery County and the I-270 corridor. It notes that both a Transportation Solutions Group and the State Highway Administration have found that the ICC will not relieve Beltway traffic in any significant way and would leave many intersections at both ends of the highway badly congested.

The council declares the Master Plan alignment of the ICC to have severe environmental impacts. It supports the Transportation Solution Group's recommendations for a combination of link, intersection, land use and transit improvements including the Inner Purple Line proposed for Metro as viable alternatives. Lastly, it notes that travel data indicates projected trips in the county to be highly varied in

New Programs At Patuxent Refuge

Four public programs will be offered at the Patuxent Research Refuge during the coming week. Two programs will be at the Visitor Center on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197:

Sunday, January 9, 1 to 2 p.m., ages 5 through 7 – The Three Bears, a hands-on program about all the kinds of bears that live in North America.

Saturday, January 15, 4:30 to 6 p.m., all ages – Owl Prowl to explore the refuge at night while looking and listening for owls on a guided hike.

Two programs will be offered at the North Tract located on Route 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 32:

Friday, January 14, 4:30 to 6 p.m., all ages – Owl Prowl (see above for details).

Saturday, January 15, 8 to 10 a.m., all ages – Bird Walk to search for birds in several refuge habitats on a guided hike. Field guides and binoculars are recommended.

All programs are free but require advance reservations. Call 301-497-5887.

Kids' Programs At Owens Center

On Friday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m., the Howard B. Owens Science Center presents "Susie's Snowflake," an introduction to the easily recognized constellations in the winter sky. Susie is a young girl learning to study science using her five senses. Through exploration and examination, she learns that snowflakes have six points. She also recognizes six bright stars in the night sky that she uses to make a snowflake. A tour of the January skies follows the presentation. The Owens Science Center is located at 9601 Greenbelt Road in Lanham. This program is open to the public. There is a fee. For information, call 301-918-8750 during school hours.

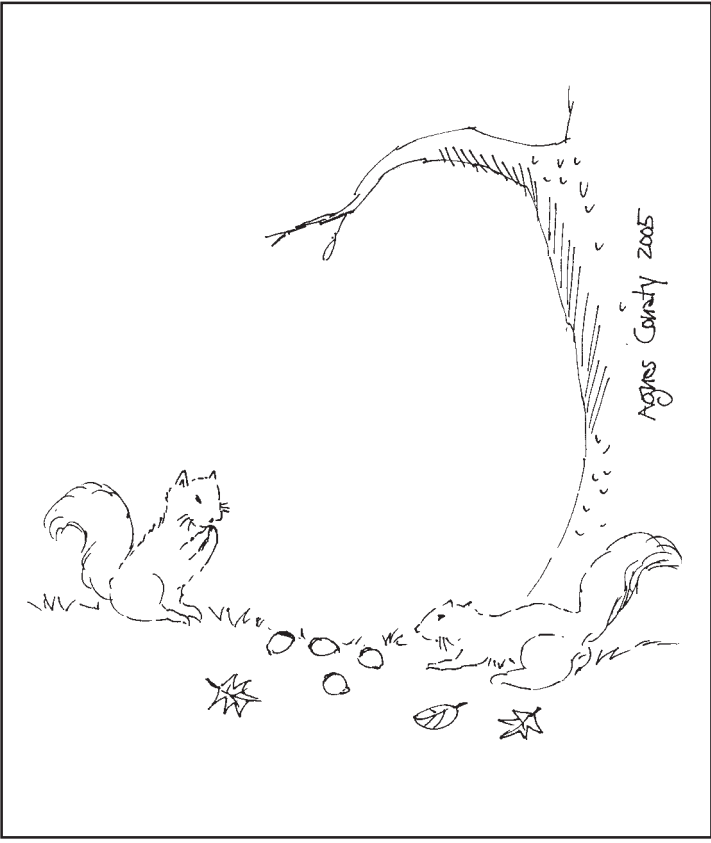
origin and destination and not justifying construction of an east-west highway.

However, the Prince George's County Department of Transportation and Public Works supports the ICC construction and County Executive Jack Johnson is in support of that department's position, according to the county executive's press officer, Jim Keary.

(Elaine Skolnik also contributed to this article.)

OLD GREENBELT
THEATRE
Week of Jan. 7
KINSEY (R)
POLAR EXPRESS (G)
Friday
Kinsey *5:10, 7:35, 9:55
Saturday
Polar Express *12:45
Kinsey *2:45, *5:10, 7:35, 9:55
Sunday
Polar Express *12:45
Kinsey *2:45, *5:10, 7:35
Monday-Thursday
Kinsey *5:10, 7:30
*These shows at \$5.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com


Grin Belt



"That's a very thoughtful gesture, Jerome. But the American Red Cross needs cash, not acorns."

AGNES CONATY ©2005

Plenty of Holiday Cheer



Greenbelters packed the Community Center gym to ring in the New Year. For more photos, see page 9.

PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
newsreview@greenbelt.com
301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977
Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985
President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662
Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483
News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805
Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

STAFF

Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Agnes Conaty, Austin Conaty, Randy Crenwelge, Cynthia Cummings, Kay Cummings, Peter Curtis, Pat Davis, Thelma deMola, Nicola Dickenson, Thomas Fishbeck, Eli Flam, Anne Gardner, Terri Gates, Al Geiger, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Eve Gresser, Carol Griffith, Shirl Hayes, Sabine Hentrich, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Heather Sparks Howard, Kathie Jarva, Elizabeth Jay, Tiane Johnson, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Pam Lambird, Sandra Lange, Lucie MacKinnon, Pat McCoy, Kathleen McFarland, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Elly Oudemans, Linda Paul, Karl Peña, Leonie Penney, Eileen Peterson, Jane Rissler, Linda Siadys, Eileen Simon, Sandra Surber Smith, Dorothy Sucher, Helen Sydavar, Joanne Tucker, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong, Baynard Woods, Virginia Zanner and Dea Zugby.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Ron Wells 301-474-4131
CIRCULATION: Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Springhill Lake: Karen Zoellner 301-474-1882

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Al Geiger.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Community Events

On Screen

Arousing the Intellect

“Kinsey,” which opens Friday, January 7 at Old Greenbelt Theatre, takes a fresh, inside view behind the controversy primed by publication of the 1948 landmark book, “Sexual Behavior in the Human Male” and five years later, “Sexual Behavior in the Human Female.” Director Bill Condon and cast (Liam Neeson as Professor Kinsey, Laura Linney as Mrs. K. and John Lithgow as Kinsey’s fire-and-brimstone preacher father) have won widespread plaudits – and an R rating. The New York Times, while acknowledging there are “explicit images and provocative scenes,” says, “It is your intellect that is most likely to be aroused.”

We see how Kinsey’s own problems help prompt the biology prof to start a fledgling sex education class at Indiana U. Thousands of interviews and personal adventures by him and his wife (his former student) led to the earth-shaking books. While one minority magazine view finds that the film “ultimately [seems] pedestrian,” far more typical are such reactions as “one of the year’s [2004] most satisfying films” and “intelligently written, well directed and filled with excellent performances.”

– Eli Flam

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

Now is the time for the Golden Age Club to look forward to 2005 and wish everyone a happy, healthy and busy year.

On January 12, Roy Labs, a certified fraud examiner, will be speaking. His topic will be “Frauding Senior Citizens,” a very timely and interesting subject for everyone.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Frances Williams over the holidays. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

Come out to the meetings and meet the new officers and committee members.

Activities Chair Micki Weidenfeld has some interesting meetings planned for 2005.

Exploring Miracles

There are people on earth who believe there are no miracles and those who believe that everything is a miracle.

On Friday, January 14 Explorations Unlimited will host a presentation by Fred Baluch who will explore this concept. He will discuss Dr. Eric Pearl’s book, “The Recon-nection,” which emphasizes healing as miracle. This book is subtitled “Heal Others, Heal Yourself.” The healing described is instantaneous and permanent and so simple that anyone can do it.

Baluch, a Greenbelt resident and retired elementary educator, is a member of the International Association of Near Death Studies and has been published in its newsletter “Vital Signs.” He believes that every moment, every breath one takes, every thought, every feeling, every emotion is a miracle.

Explorations Unlimited is a speaker series held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Register for Knit And Crochet Group

Anyone planning on participating in the new Knit and Crochet Group on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenbelt Community Center will need to pre-register. Stop by the Community Center to fill out a registration form.

Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Register for GED

Registration for the winter 10 week GED course given by Greenbelt CARES will be held Tuesday, January 11 only, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Classes begin on Thursday, January 14 and are held every Tuesday and Thursday. GED I is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., GED II is from 1 to 3 p.m. Classes will be held in the Municipal Building.

For details call CARES, 301-345-6660, ext. 2016 or email jhering@ci.greenbelt.md.us.

At the Library

Tuesday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, newborns to 24 months with caregiver. Limited to 15 babies.

Wednesday, January 12:
10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 24 to 36 months with caregiver, limit 15.

4 p.m. Bookids, ages 8 to 12, Lois Lowry’s “The Giver.”

7 p.m., Friends of the Greenbelt Library.

Thursday, January 13, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20.

Coalition to Show Film on Vote Fraud

The Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince George’s County and Greenbelt Access Television will present a progressive film series, starting with the film “Invisible Ballots: A Temptation for Electronic Vote Fraud” to be shown on Monday, January 17 at 4 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center.

William Gazecki’s 2004 film for American Media’s Reality Zone shows a host of problems that have emerged in the nation’s newly high-tech elections: technical errors, fraud and tampering, absence of paper-trail accountability and conflicts of interest on the part of election officials.

A discussion will follow, led by True Vote Maryland activist Bob Ferraro, a director of its Campaign for Verifiable Voting, who will report on evidence gathered by poll watchers around the state.

Free Theater Tickets For Greenbriar Folks

Greenbriar has a limited number of free tickets available for the NASA Theater’s rehearsal production of “Dancing at Lughnasa” on Wednesday, February 9. Tickets are limited and available for a short time. Reserve tickets by Monday, January 17.

Stress Reduction Program Offered

Did the holidays cause stress? Do daily obligations cause stress? If so, a program offered at Mishkan Torah may help. Susan Bregman, PhD will present a program on stress reduction and life enhancement on Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. at Mishkan Torah Synagogue, 10 Ridge Road.

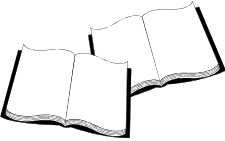
Bregman will lead participants in exercises to help them enjoy calmer lives. She will work with guided imagery and relaxation breathing and then guide participants in creating a self-esteem kit. This program is free and open to the public.

Poetry Plus

Help resuscitate the temporarily moribund Poetry Plus discussion group. Since the loss of leader Emily Nutku, the group has wandered in a dark wood, bereft of the scintillating discussions she inspired.

The group is an informal gathering of people who enjoy reading and discussing poetry. No expertise or regular attendance is required. Each month the group discusses poems on a particular topic, such as “love” or “changing seasons.” Attendees may bring 10 copies of relevant poems to share. Poems written by attendees are also welcome.

Poetry Plus meets on the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the lower level of the Greenbelt Library, directly across from the elevator. For details call Jim Link at 301-982-4455. The next meeting, “New Beginnings, Renewal,” will be held on Saturday, January 8.



GIAC Board Meets

The Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative (GIAC) open board meeting will be held Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Police Station. New and old members are invited to attend and new ideas are welcome.

Directions to the police station and other information about the cooperative can be found at <http://www.greenbelt.com/giac>.

A Review

The Greenbelt Concert Band Delights Holiday Crowd

by Mary Moien

The Greenbelt Concert Band performed its Holiday Lights Concert on December 19 to an enthusiastic audience. Tom Cherrix conducted and Joan Culpepper introduced the arrangements, adding a little background information to each. A children’s choir, composed of children and friends of the band, joined in the music near the end.

Many traditional pieces were included – “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” “Waltz of the Flowers” and “The March of the Wooden Soldiers” from the “The Nutcracker Suite.” A Chanukah celebration gave the concert an ecumenical feel.

Holiday music is an excellent venue for highlighting various instrumentalists in the band. “Frosty the Snowman” was a showcase for the clarinetists. “A Christmas Solo” featured Steve

Wood on the clarinet. The entire trumpet section was up and swaying for “Holiday for Trumpets.” And the saxophone quartet – including one member dressed as Santa – was highlighted in “Winter Wonderland.”

Children joined the band on stage to perform “The Christmas Song” and “Jingle Bells.” The group ranged from four to 12 years old and Sarah Quillen, the oldest, appeared to be the group’s informal leader. Other children included Amelia, Zachary and Amber Itteilag; Caroline and Grace Rowe; Haley Giraldi; Caroline Campbell; Laurel Glover and Andrea Gormley. The children’s choir was directed by Jim Moore, assistant band director.

The next band concert in Greenbelt is scheduled for Sunday, May 1.

Greenbriar Seniors Invited to Lunch

Senior residents of Greenbriar and a guest are invited to a luncheon on Tuesday, January 11 at noon. A guest speaker will describe upcoming and ongoing city events following lunch. This event is free, but seniors are asked to register by Friday, January 7.

Register for Blue Sky Puppet Show

The Blue Sky Puppet Theater will be on hand to present a free puppet show about brotherhood and individuality in the Greenbriar Terrace Room on Monday, January 17 at 11 a.m. This event will provide a worthwhile activity for all ages on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Register parents and children for “Rufus” by Wednesday, January 12.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, January 13, 2005
7:30 PM
GHI BOARD ROOM

7:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Member Complaint Issues

Key Agenda Items:

- Proposed Addition – 71E Ridge Road
- Proposed Addition – 2E Southway
- Nonconforming Vinyl Storage Container – 6C Crescent
- Rules Change – Barrier Fences
- 2005 Trash Removal Contract – 1st Reading
- Review of Additions & Exterior Modifications (From Jan. 5, 2005, Worksession)
- Playground Agreement
- Pest Control Contract – 2nd Reading
- Engagement of Auditor – 2nd Reading

Regular board meetings are open to members.

Enjoy Swimming?!

The Greenbelt Swim Team Needs You!

Come join us . . . Make new friends . . .
Improve your strokes and endurance . . . Learn to fly, butterfly that is!

The Greenbelt Swim Team's Winter/Spring season runs
from January 25 to May 15, 2005

Walk-in registration will be held on January 18 and 19, 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Aquatic Center. Fees are discounted for registrations received by January 20!

Swimmers practice Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:55 to 5:55 p.m.
and Sunday mornings. Developmental Swimmers meet Sunday mornings.

Information and applications can be found at
www.greenbelt.com/swimteam or at the GMST bulletin board
in the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway in Old Greenbelt.

For any questions, call Deborah Taylor at DeborahTay@aol.com or 301-345-2485
or Leslie Hilliard at 301-474-7504.



The flags in Greenbelt are at half staff in remembrance of the many victims of the Tsunami.



PHOTO BY JAMES GIESE

Get well wishes to Betty Allen who is recovering at home after recent surgery.

Congratulations to Joseph and James Fasone, Eleanor Roosevelt High School students, who have been nominated by Congressman Steny Hoyer to the U.S. Army service academy.

Volunteers Needed

Hospice of the Chesapeake seeks patient care volunteers to provide support and companionship to patients with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones throughout Prince George's County. Volunteers are also needed for office work and community outreach, as well as drivers with four-wheel drive during inclement weather. Contact Julie Medlin, Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteer coordinator, by phone at 301-499-4500 or send an email message to jmedlin@hospicechesapeake.org.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road,
Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 9, 10 a.m.
"Reclaiming Sin"
Barbara W. ten Hove with
Kathleen Davis, worship associate

Barbara Wells ten Hove,
Jaco B. ten Hove,
co-ministers



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith

"Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure."
—Baha'u'llah

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org

St. Hugh's Parish Christmas Dinner Is a Rousing Success

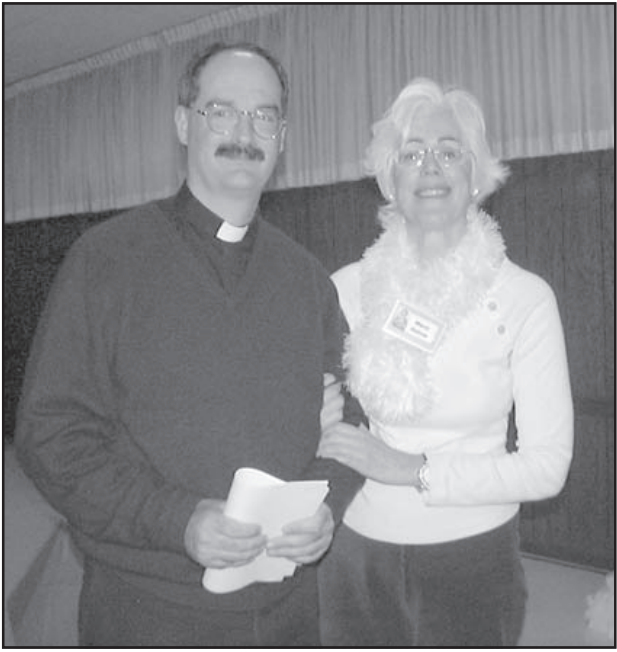
by Mary Moien

Grenoble Hall at St. Hugh's was transformed into a magical setting for what was planned as the first annual St. Hugh's Christmas dinner held this year on December 12. Father Walter Tappe, pastor since June, had called upon the parish Sodality under the direction of Prefect Marti Galvin, to bring the plans to fruition. The resulting party exceeded all expectations.

Nearly 300 parishioners participated in the dinner set amid candy canes, pink poinsettias, lighted trees and silver garlands. The tables were covered with pink cloth; pink decorations being in honor of Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent when the church is covered in pink to celebrate the nearness of Christmas.

Parish members feasted on turkey, ham and vegetarian lasagna. Hot cider was a real hit. A separate dessert table was laden with goodies provided by the Sodality ladies. Eighth grade students from St. Hugh's helped serve the dinner under the watchful eye of youth minister Al Kovacic.

Sodalists Cleopatra White planned the menu, Cindy Perry planned the decorations, Kathleen McFarland and Bridget McDermott spearheaded ticket sales and Beth Osborne oversaw the serving. Accordionist Phil Ventura entertained the party with Christmas songs and other favorites. It was a wonderful afternoon, a chance for members of a very large parish to begin to get to know each other better.



PHOTOS BY CINDY PERRY

Top left: Rev. Walter Tappe, pastor at St. Hugh's talks with Marti Galvin, Prefect, Sodality of Our Lady. Top right: Kathleen McFarland and Sally Carrano pose for the camera.




Gloria Wilson and her daughter Porsche enjoyed their holiday meal.

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www.mishkantorah.org


Services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Family, 7:30 first Friday of the month

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Sunday	8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.	Worship Service Fellowship Sunday School Bible Class
Wednesday	10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Worship Evening Worship



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm
Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm


"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"

 **St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church**
7010 Glenn Dale Road
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org


Sundays:	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm	Simple, quiet Mass Christian education for all ages Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
301-474-9410 www.gbmg-umc.org/mowatt

 Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am


ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

 **Mass Schedule:**
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

 Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

 **HEED THE GUIDANCE**

As we witness the escalating death toll from the tsunami in southeast Asia, it is important to ponder the nature of the trials or tests of this world. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah (God) states, "No calamity befalls, but by the decision and Divine preordainments of Allah, and whosoever believes in Allah, He guides his heart. And Allah is the All-Knower of everything." (64:11) These trials are but reminders of our own limited lives on this earth and opportunities for us to grow closer to Allah by showing thanks for the many blessings that He has provided.

To get your own free copy of the Holy Qur'an call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at muslimguide@hotmail.com or visit the website www.islam-guide.com.

Cat Lost Again

by Terri Gates
Jasper, formerly Lucky, has strayed from his home again. Several years ago, Lucky adopted 5 Court Laurel Hill Road. To find the owner, members of 5 Court put his photograph in the News Review. Lucky's owner called to identify the cat.

In the meantime, Lucky had been apprehended by Animal Control. Members of 5 Court Laurel Hill Road came to the rescue. Fines were paid and a housing unit was created in the rear of Don Comis' house.

A new owner was accepted. Mary and Michael Giles became owners of Lucky, changing his name to Jasper.

Jasper was last seen on December 30 at Ridge and Laurel Hill Roads. He is not wearing a collar. The owners have posted a \$100 reward. Call 301-614-0954 or (work) 301-405-5804.

NARFE Looks At Living Wills

Northern Prince George's County chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will meet at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6106 Princess Garden Parkway at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12. J. Carocci will lecture on "Writing Your Own Living Will." Members are urged to attend and the public is invited.

City Notes

Four complaints were received in the Code Enforcement department – one commercial and one residential for flooding, one for ice in front of a house and one for infestation.

Animal Control staff responded to one cruelty complaint leading to confiscation of a cat.

Planning
Planning staff reviewed Prince George's County green infrastructure plan.

Target at Beltway Plaza had a roof leak during a rainstorm on December 23. The store was closed for two hours to evaluate the situation and reopened at 5:30 p.m. Further investigation revealed that a satisfactory condition still existed.

Public Works
The streets crew cleaned underpasses and storm drains.

The facilities maintenance crew worked with the vendor who repaired several leaks in the Aquatic and Fitness Center roof.

The cleaning crew cleaned classroom and hallway floors at the Community Center in preparation for the New Year's Eve celebration.

The parks crew completed the new bus shelters on Cherrywood Lane and repaired a fence on Sunrise Court which was damaged during a police pursuit.

The horticulture crew cleaned and degreased the traffic circles on Hanover Parkway after a vehicle accident.

Administration/Youth Center
Schedules for the men's basketball league have been made and mailed out to all team managers. Twenty-two teams have signed up for the league. Games will be played from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Sundays starting January 9.

Greenbelt CARES
Judy Hering held the winter session of CARES babysitting course on Tuesday, December 28. Two students learned about health, safety and responsibility issues when watching children.



City Information

CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Municipal Building-Council Room January 10, 2005 – 8 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Greenbelt Highlight Video

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

***Committee Reports** (Items on the Consent Agenda marked by * will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #06-2004 (Referral on Crosswalk Study)

Board of Elections, Report #05-01

(Voting Machines for 2005 City Election)

Public Safety Advisory Committee, Report #2004-002 (Window Guards)

Public Safety Advisory Committee, Report #2004-003 (Referral on Crosswalk Study)

LEGISLATION

■ OTHER BUSINESS

County Homeland Security Grant

■ Award of Purchase – Police Department Vehicles

■ * Greenbelt Board of Appeals Resolution for Variance No. 04-003-V

■ * Applications for Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses

■ * Extension of Disability Leave

■ * Resignation from Advisory Group

■ * Reappointments to Advisory Group

MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10 a.m. on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail kgallagher@ci.greenbelt.md.us to reach the City Clerk.

WINTER GED COURSE

Greenbelt CARES begins the **Winter 10-WEEK-GED COURSE** on Thursday, January 13, 2005. Registration will be on Tuesday, January 11 ONLY beginning at 10:30am.

Course for Greenbelt residents is free, \$150 for non-Greenbelt residents. Students will be required to pay \$10 for calculators and textbooks as well. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday, in the Municipal Building. GED I is from 10:30 - 12:30, GED II is from 1:00 - 3:00. For enrollment information, call CARES, 345-6660, ext. 2016 or email: jhering@ci.greenbelt.md.us.

OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the:

**Advisory Planning Board
Public Safety Advisory Committee
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Meetings for January 10-13

Monday, January 10, 7:00pm, Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee, Community Center
Monday, January 10, 7:30pm, Interview for Advisory Group, Municipal Building Library

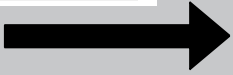
Monday, January 10, 8:00pm, Regular Council Meeting, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

Tuesday, January 11, 7:30pm, Board of Elections Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, January 12, 8:00pm, Council Work Session - FY2004 Financial Report, Community Center

Drop-in to any water aerobics class
January 3 thru February 26
Call 301 397-2204 for prices, class days, and times.

TRY SOMETHING NEW!



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Your discarded Christmas Tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will pickup trees at the locations listed below. The chips will be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please bring trees to any of the following areas through February 7, 2005.

GHI

- 73 Court Ridge Road -Playground opposite
- Plateau Place & Ridge Road -Corner on
Playground side

- Research Road & Hillside Road - Corner

- 44 Court Ridge Road - Area near playground

- Eastway & Crescent Road -Corner

- 21 Court Ridge Road - Across from Green

Ridge House

- Crescent Road & Ridge Road-Playground at
junction

- Parkway Road

Corner across from Community Church

Corner across from 58 Ct.

- 7 Court Southway Road-Playground at

Little League Field

- 11 Court & 13 Court Ridge Road-Park area

between courts

Boxwood

- Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane-Playground

Lakewood

- Greenhill Road and Crescent Road

(by Baptist Church)

Charlestowne Village and Charlestowne

North - Adjacent to Attic Park

University Square -Front of swimming pool

Lakeside North - Near Swimming pool

Springhill Lake -Community Building

Greenbriar

- Between buildings 7708 and 7710 Hanover Pkwy.

- Between buildings 7728 and 7730 Hanover Pkwy.

- Between buildings 7826 and 7828 Hanover Pkwy.

- Between buildings 8003 and 8009 Mandan Road

Glen Oaks

- Between buildings 7903 and 7905 Mandan Road

- Between buildings 7509 and 7511 Mandan Road

Hunting Ridge - Between buildings 6936 and 6978,

Hanover Parkway

Windsor Green - Court entrances, picked up by

Windsor Green staff

Greenbrook Village and Estates

- Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr. and Matthew Dr.

- Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and

Greenbrook Drive

- Mandan Road and Mathew St.-in front of barricade

Greenwood Village

- Opposite 8175 Mandan Terrace

- Opposite 7646 Mandan Road

- Opposite 7648 Mandan Road

Greenspring and Greenspring II

- Southwest corner of Megan Lane and Craddock Rd.

- Park area between 7926 and 8006 Greenbury Drive

- Corner of Spring Manor Drive and Springshire Way

- Open area between 6519 and 6515 Springcrest Dr.

Belle Point

- Corner of Vanity Fair Drive and Prince James Way

- Open area between 7800 and 7801 Vanity Fair Drive

- Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

Greenbelt Lake Village

- Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Drive

- Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive

- Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Drive



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Open to students in
grades 6-12 who
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school in Greenbelt

WIN CASH PRIZES
AND PRESENT
YOUR WORK ON
THE LOCALLY

TELEVISED
"GREENBELT
YOUTH
LITERARY
SHOWCASE"

Entries must be received
by Monday, February 28th
at the Greenbelt CARES
office at 25 Crescent
Road. For more informa-
tion or for a registration
form call 301-345-6660.
Rules will be posted at
www.ci.greenbelt.md.us.
Sponsored by the Advisory
Committee on Education.

PLANE CRASH continued from page 1

poachers hunting wild game. Without general public access, it is possible that wreckage from an aircraft could lie in the woods undisturbed for decades.

Second, the crash occurred on May 17, 1945. That was barely one week after the German surrender and less than four months before the war's end. When the war was finally over, the military was burdened with a huge inventory of ships, airplanes, tanks, vehicles and all manner of other weapons and equipment, more that it could possibly maintain or use during peacetime. The answer was to destroy the equipment, an expensive and time-consuming process.

Third, the military was downsizing its personnel. Troops were being mustered out. Bases were closing. Beltsville airfield, one of those short-lived bases, was closed for military use just after the war. Records show that the Navy turned the facility over to the Department of Agriculture soon thereafter.

My theory considered these factors as well as the likely condition of Lt. Needham's plane after the crash. Surely it had been

severely damaged or destroyed. Perhaps the Navy decided it was too much trouble to deal with the wreckage in the woods and that they would leave it for some later assignment. Then, before the wreckage retrieval work could be assigned, the Navy closed the Beltsville facility and the wreckage was forgotten.

To prove this theory, I needed more information. In my search I soon exhausted every lead about the airplane crash that came up on the internet. Reluctantly, I moved to the next best source for answers. I attempted to contact Bill Needham, sending an email message to the address he had posted. However, his posting was several years old and the email address had expired.

Next I sent email messages to the webmasters that ran the Abandoned Airfields and vponavy.org websites. I gave each of them a brief outline of my findings and asked if they could provide any help.

The webmaster of the Abandoned Airfields website had been my source for the rumor about the wrecked plane in the woods

at Beltsville but he had never heard of Lt. Needham and had no additional information to share about the wreckage. I had greater success with the vponavy.org webmaster. He provided an address and phone number for Bill Needham.

It turned out that Bill lived in La Plata, less than 30 miles away. I telephoned him immediately. I told Bill that I had read his posting and that I had information to share about the wreck of his father's plane. I gave him all the details.

Bill was happy to hear the news and happy that I had taken such an interest in his father's story. He furnished everything he knew about the crash. He found my theory about the possibility of finding the wreck of his father's plane to be plausible and he became just as excited about the effort as I.

Bill's information was tantalizing. His father's aircraft type was not a C-47 or a DC-3 but something very similar in size and configuration. It was a Lockheed Lodestar R-50.

The Lockheed Lodestar is an old twin-engine, propeller driven,

tail dragging transport plane used in the 1940s. It is comparable to the DC-3. I could easily imagine how wreckage of an R-50 might be mistaken for wreckage of a DC-3, so this was not a problem. The mystery was really starting to look interesting.

It had never occurred to Bill that the wreckage of his father's plane could still be lying where it had crashed more than 59 years ago. Although he had visited the Beltsville airfield, he assumed that the Navy had removed the wreckage long ago. Nor did he have information on the exact site of the crash. Now, after hearing of my discoveries, he certainly wanted to return and join in the search.

Bill provided other details of the incident. He had spoken with the copilot, CDR Fowler, who had survived the crash that killed Bill's father. He gave Bill a very good first-hand eyewitness account of the accident. Their conversations occurred several years ago, just before CDR Fowler died.

(To be continued.)



All that remains of the NE/SW runway.



The NW/SE runway is equally unrecognizable.

PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY SMITH

GUARD continued from page 1

Aparicio, an auto body repainter. The membership list continues with Sgt. Deron Jarvis, a personal trainer; SSG James Bowman, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician; SPC Tyler Kuamoo, a Staples associate; SS6 Murray Fisk, technician at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant; and SPC Scott Wilson, a student. Those whose current employment is unknown are POC David Parks, PFC Daniel Jett and PFC Craig Notice.

For Vicars, Heskett, Bowan, Jarvis and Fiske it is not the first time they have been called to active duty. They were called to protect, guard and provide security at Aberdeen Proving Ground after September 11, 2001. The soldiers agreed that they are much better trained this time and that the quality of their personnel is superior.

"Nobody has been chosen but they have to do it for their country," explained one NG. When this reporter commented that this is a serious commitment, another guardsman responded, "At times it feels overwhelming. It's my country and it's my turn to do something."

One Family's Art Show in Laurel

In January, Montpelier Cultural Arts Center hosts an exhibition of artwork by four generations of the LaRoche family. "One Man's Family" will be in the main gallery January 7 through 26 with an opening reception Friday, January 7 from 7 to 9 p.m.

This Prince George's County family came to the attention of Montpelier staff through the Normandy Portraits exhibition first mounted at the art center in June 1995, the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Gerard LaRoche loaned Montpelier sketches he had made while serving in France and mentioned that artists ran in his family, beginning with his father, J. Arthur LaRoche. He became a United States citizen in 1924 and several of his eight children became artists. Examples of their works are included in the exhibition.

Gerard's daughter, Hyattsville resident and artist Marianne LaRoche, along with her brother Jerome, represent the third generation. The fourth generation includes Jerome's daughter Catherine. For information call 301-953-1993, TTY 301-490-2329.

Requests for Senior Surveys Honored

Two communities in Massachusetts requested copies of the senior needs assessment survey done in Greenbelt.

The Ludlow Council on Aging and the Greater Northampton Faith in Action Alliance are both developing needs assessments for their senior populations.

Diane Hayden from the Hampshire Community Action Commission in Northampton observed that a comparison between Greenbelt and Northampton seniors "would provide Greenbelt with the ability to generalize its findings to other seniors, caregivers, service providers and pre-seniors and would give Northampton the ability to do the same." The City of Greenbelt responded positively to both requests.

M-NCPPC Receives National Award

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has earned national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The local parks, recreation and planning agency serves both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

During an 18-month process M-NCPPC met each of the 155 standards in 10 categories, such as strategic planning, resource management, public information and marketing, human resources, fiscal management, programs and services, facility and land use management, safety and security, and research and evaluation.

The final report cited M-NCPPC for a number of strengths: "... not in the facilities and programs that are offered, even though they are tremendous. The real strength of the agency lies with the pride, professionalism and enthusiasm of the staff. Everyone, no matter what their job, truly enjoys working for this agency and providing quality services to the residents and visitors of the region," the report said.

"The commission is privileged and delighted to accept this CAPRA accreditation on behalf of the 1.7 million residents we serve in Prince George's and Montgomery counties," said Elizabeth M. Hewlett, chairman of the

Prince George's County Planning Board and the commission. "It is truly an exceptional honor to be nationally recognized as the best in our field."

For more information on M-NCPPC, visit www.mncppc.org or call 301-952-4314, 301-495-4602 or 301-699-2407.

New Homebound Book Program

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program is starting a Homebound Book Program in partnership with the Prince George's County Library System.

The goal of the program is to offer homebound residents access to books, including large-print books. Participants will be interviewed by GAIL staff and will choose the specific categories of books desired. A program volunteer would deliver books once every four weeks.

Those wishing to volunteer to deliver books to the homebound in Greenbelt or to enroll in the Homebound Book Program should contact Belicia Swinson at 240-542-2036. Enrollment begins Tuesday, January 4. Training for volunteers delivering books will be Monday, January 31 or Saturday, February 12 at the Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Road. All ages of homebound Greenbelt residents are welcome.

Historic Photo Collection at NAL

An early 20th century soybean collecting expedition in Asia comes alive in a collection of historic photos at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library in Beltsville. More than a thousand prints documenting the expedition are preserved in paperboard or clothbound photo albums. A small collection of the prints is also available on the library's website.

The expedition was made from 1929 to 1931 by pioneering plant explorer Palemon Howard Dorsett and colleague William Joseph Morse. They were assigned to travel throughout the rural countryside of Japan, Korea and Manchurian China. Their goal: find and send home examples of rare, wild and cultivated soybeans, a crop that had captured the interest of American farmers. The explorers brought back about 4,500 soybean specimens. Some of these plants had prized traits such as resistance to harmful microbes that could otherwise devastate the crop.

Researchers visiting the library can, by appointment, view the albums. Armchair travelers can conveniently read about the expedition and view nearly 50 prints by logging onto the library's website at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/findaids/dorsett>.

Cocoa Beans Disease Research

Here's some sobering news for Valentine's Day gift-seekers: All is not well in the world of chocolate. That's because several fungi, most significantly *Crinipellis perniciosa*, are attacking the cacao trees that produce the seeds that are the chief ingredient for cocoa and chocolate. This fungus penetrates the stem and fruit tissue of cacao trees inhibiting formation of seed pods and destroying mature pods.

But scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service have been tackling the problem. Raymond J. Schnell and colleagues at ARS' Subtropical Horticultural Research Unit in Miami, Fla., have studied cacao's genome and have found genetic markers for resistance to witches' broom, the disease caused by *C. perniciosa*.

Schnell is currently in the third year of a five-year cooperative agreement with Masterfoods, Inc. of Hackettstown, N.J. – makers of M&Ms, Dove Chocolate and Snickers candy bars – to breed cacao that resists serious diseases. Breeding populations established in Costa Rica and Ecuador have shown tolerance to witches' broom and to frosty pod and black pod, both of which rot cacao pods, as well as to another fungus that causes cankers on branches and stems.

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Farm Fresh Produce	
Fresh Express Ready To Use Salads Selected Varieties	99¢ 10-12 oz.
Red Ripe U.S. #1 Premium Tomatoes	99¢ lb.
Dole Grade A Red Potatoes	99¢ 5 lb. Bag
California Sweet Juicy Navel Oranges	\$2⁹⁹ 8 lb. Bag
Del Monte Extra Sweet Golden Pineapples	\$2⁹⁹ Each
U.S. Fancy D'Anjou Pears	99¢ lb.

Fresh Quality Meats			
Shurfine Fresh Homestyle Roasting Chicken	59¢ lb.	Chef's Fresh Beef Boneless Ribeye Delmonico Steak	\$6⁹⁹ lb.
BAR-S Original Jumbo Franks 16 oz.	99¢	Perdue Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters	49¢ lb.
Shurfine Fresh Grade A Pick-Of- The-Chicken	\$1²⁹ lb.	Shurfine Sliced Bacon Regular-Low Salt	\$1⁹⁹ 1 lb.
		Certified Angus Beef Boneless Sirloin Steak	\$4⁶⁹ lb.
		Fresh Lean Boneless Pork Loin Chops	\$2⁹⁹ lb.

DAIRY	DELI	FROZEN
Minute Maid Premium Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz.	Pilgrim's Pride Oven Roasted Turkey Breast	Breyer's Ice Cream Assorted 56-64 oz.
2/\$3	\$2⁹⁹ lb.	2/\$5
Shurfine Soft Vegetable Spread 48 oz. Bowl	Virginia Baked Ham	Shurfine Orange Juice 12 oz.
2/\$3	\$4⁴⁹ lb.	5/\$5
Breyer's Yogurts Assorted 8 oz.	Shurfine Liverwurst	Swanson Hungry-Man Dinners Assorted 15-18 oz.
3/\$1	\$1⁹⁹ lb.	2/\$5
HEALTH & BEAUTY	SEAFOOD	NATURAL & GOURMET
Robitussin Cough Formula Assorted 4 oz.	Fresh Salmon Fillets	Silk Soy Milk Assorted 64 oz.
\$3⁹⁹	\$4⁹⁹ lb.	2/\$5
Suave Shampoo -or- Conditioner Assorted 22.5 oz.	41-50 Count Peeled Deveined Cooked Shrimp	Asian Gourmet Green Tea Bags Assorted 24 Pk.
\$1²⁹	\$10⁹⁹ 2 lb. Bag	\$1²⁹
		Fresh Instore Baked Vienna Bread 16 oz.
		79¢
		Fresh Instore Baked Peach Pie 8 Inch
		\$3⁹⁹

GROCERY BARGAINS	
Ragu Pasta Sauce Assorted 16-26 oz.	Shurfine Apple Juice 64 oz.
98¢	88¢
Purex Ultra Value Size Liquid Laundry Detergent Assorted 100 oz.	Lipton Tea Bags 100 Pk.
\$1⁹⁹	2/\$3
Skippy Peanut Butter Assorted 18 oz.	Campbell's Original Chicken Noodle-or- Tomato Soup 10.7 oz. Can
99¢	4/\$2
Betty Crocker Helpers Hamburger- Tuna-Chicken 5-9 oz.	Post Raisin Bran Cereal 20 oz.
99¢	2/\$3
San Giorgio Spaghetti- Elbow Macaroni- Vermicelli-Ziti 1 lb.	Clorox Ultra Regular Liquid Bleach 96 oz.
3/\$1	88¢

BEER & WINE	PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY
Busch Beer 6 Pk-12 oz. Cans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We Honor Most Prescription Plans ■ Medicare Billing ■ Courteous, Knowledgeable Staff ■ Free Home Delivery Of Prescriptions Mon.-Wed.-Fri. ■ Free Blood Pressure Tester ■ Durable Medical Equipment Sales & Rental
\$3³⁹	
Jacob's Creek Wines Assorted 750 ML.	
\$6⁹⁹	
Livingston Cellars Wines Assorted 3 Liter	
\$7⁹⁹	
Black Label Beer 12 Pk. - 12 oz. Cans	
\$5³⁹	
Harp Beer 6 Pk.-12 oz.	
\$5⁹⁹	
Jadot Beaujolais Villages Wines 750ML	
\$7⁹⁹	

PRICES EFFECTIVE: JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	10	11	12	13	14	15
16						

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Sunday 10 a.m. til 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

PHARMACY
Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. til 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. til 6 p.m. Closed Sunday 301-474-4400

POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

December 23, 2:08 p.m., 8900 block of Edmonston Road, a man reported that he had exited his vehicle in the parking lot of the BB&T Bank to make a deposit when a vehicle, described as a red Toyota Camry, pulled up alongside him. The passenger exited the vehicle and approached him, displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of money from the man the suspect got back into the vehicle and fled. The vehicle, which had been reported stolen, was found abandoned a short time later in the 9000 block of Edmonston Road. The suspect is described as a black male, 20 to 25 years of age, 5'7" to 5'9", 165 to 170 pounds with black hair and brown eyes, wearing dark clothing.

December 26, 9:51 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court, a woman reported that she was in her apartment building and had opened the door to enter her residence when she was approached by a youth, who displayed a handgun and demanded her purse. After obtaining the purse the youth fled the scene on foot. The suspect is described as a black male in his teens, 5'8" with a thin build and black hair, wearing a blue jacket and jeans.

December 29, 9:37 a.m., Beltway Plaza Mall, a manager at the Wendy's Restaurant reported that he had just come into the restaurant through the rear door when a man came in behind him, displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of money, the man fled the scene, getting into a vehicle described as a white Acura 4-door with unknown Maryland temporary tags, driven by a second man described as a black male wearing a white shirt. The first suspect is described as a black male, 5'9", 175 pounds with brown eyes, a wide nose and a thin beard, wearing a green hooded sweater and black jeans.

December 29, 6:33 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, a food delivery person reported that he was attempting to make a delivery when he was approached by two youths. One displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After taking food and money both fled the scene on foot. The suspects are described as two black male, 14 to 17 years of age and 5'6". One weighed 150 pounds with a dark complexion, wearing dark clothing and the other weighed 215 pounds.

December 29, 7:33 p.m., 8200 block Canning Terrace, a man reported that he had parked his car and was walking to a residence when he was approached by a man, who asked him for a dollar. The victim stated that he did not have a dollar and started to walk away. The man then struck the victim in the back of the head, knocking him to the ground.

The man, along with another man who was standing nearby, searched the victim's pockets, taking his wallet. Both then fled the scene on foot. The suspects are described as two black males 6'2", one was in his twenties, wearing a dark green coat and a black ski mask. The victim refused treatment for an injured arm.

December 29, 8:58 p.m., 7900 block Mandan Road, a man reported that he had entered his apartment building and was checking his mailbox when he was approached by two men. One of the men struck him in the face with an unknown object, knocking him to the ground. The men then searched the victim's pockets, took money and fled the scene. The suspects are described as two black males, 18 to 20 years of age, one was 5'8", wearing a dark green shirt with gray sleeves and the other was 6', wearing a dark tan coat. The victim refused treatment for a laceration above his right eye.

Drugs

December 22, 9:40 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute on school grounds, disruption of school activities, two counts of assault and resisting arrest. The man was observed on the grounds of the school while school was in session. He was approached by a school resource officer and school administrators, at which time the resource officer detected the odor of what he believed to be marijuana. The man began shouting at the police and resisted attempts by police to place him into custody, assaulting the officer and a school administrator in the process. He was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana packaged as though for sale. He was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Unattended Child

December 22, 7:21 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane, a 3-year-old child was left unattended in the stairwell of an apartment building. The child was released to foster care and a warrant was obtained the next day charging the father, a nonresident man with child desertion.

Trespass

December 29, 6:51 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespass. An officer was checking the area for suspects in a robbery, that had just occurred, when he observed the man. When approached, the man attempted to flee the area on foot. He was apprehended after a short foot chase. Investigation revealed that the man had been banned from the apartment complex by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

Burglary

December 22, 12:17 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, several youths were observed entering a vacant apartment by way of an unlocked kitchen window. The youths had left the scene prior to the arrival of the police.

December 27, 2:52 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered the residence by way of a bedroom window. Money was taken.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were stolen: a blue 1994 Plymouth Voyager van with unknown Maryland temporary tags from the 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace; a 2001 Chrysler Sebring 4-door from Beltway Plaza Mall, recovered December 26 by the Prince George's County Police, no arrests; and a gray over black 1985 Toyota Corolla 2-door, Maryland tags KEM884 from the 200 block Lakeside Drive.

Vandalism to, thefts from and attempted thefts of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 7500 block Mandan Road, 7800 block Mandan Road, 8000 block Mandan Road, 8200 block Canning Terrace, 7700 block Cloister Place, 100 block Westway, 6100 block Breezewood Court, 6200 block Breezewood Drive, 5900 block Cherrywood Lane (three incidents), 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 9200 block Edmonston Road, 9300 block Edmonston Road (two incidents), 6200 block Springhill Drive, 9100 block Springhill Lane (two incidents), 6100 block Springhill Terrace and Beltway Plaza Mall (two incidents).

Advice on Handling Outdoor Hazards

A Natural Outdoor Hazards Program is offered by park rangers of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Rangers will visit a classroom Monday through Friday and provide students (grades 3 through 6) with free, valuable information about stinging insects, poisonous plants, venomous snakes and other natural outdoor hazards via a one-hour interactive slide presentation. Reservations are required.

For more information, call 301-627-7755.

Hospital Offers Fitness Program

Washington Adventist Hospital will offer a free practical fitness program for better health on Tuesday, January 11 at 11 a.m. at Longbranch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring. For more information call 301-431-5708.

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Safety Tips

Emergency Alerts Broadcast Locally

Emergency managers at the federal, state and local government level rely on the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to pass emergency or disaster information to participating radio and television stations. EAS replaces the Emergency Broadcast System. The major difference is that the EAS uses digital technology to distribute messages.

In Maryland all television stations in the Washington and Baltimore media areas carry EAS messages. The radio stations that carry EAS messages in Prince George's County are: WMUC 88.1 FM, WPGC 95.5 FM, WHUR 96.3 FM, WBIG 100.3 FM, WMMJ 102.3 FM, WTOP 107.7 FM, WMAL 630AM, WILC 900 AM, WTOP 1500 AM and WPGC 1580 AM.

The National Weather Service also sends emergency weather information through NOAA Weather Radios, which are commercially available, to warn listeners about severe weather events.

The EAS stations are listed on the Emergency Preparedness pages of the Verizon telephone books for each county. They also are listed on each county website. More information about emergency management can be obtained from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) at 800-422-8799 or by visiting the MEMA website at www.mema.state.md.us.

License Contains Security Features

Maryland's new driver's license and identification card will contain improved security features to deter fraud and identity theft. Maryland's first new driver's license in 10 years was introduced in Annapolis against a backdrop of law enforcement officers from jurisdictions around the state.

Dubbed "All-in-One" by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), the new sleek, credit-card-style licenses and I.D. cards contain embedded security data. The new card stock, use of holograms and a two-dimensional bar code increase their security and durability. The color-coded licenses and I.D. cards include fresh and whimsical graphics like the Maryland blue crab. Full-face pictures now grace the new vertically-formatted under-21 license, a change that will allow for immediate recognition of underage drinkers and smokers.

The technology supporting the new licenses and identification cards allows for all facets of the driver's license or I.D. card transaction to take place at a single point of customer service, eliminating the use of a paper application – and the potential for fraud. The single point transaction eliminates the nuisance of having to migrate from one MVA counter to another and wait in multiple lines.

The MVA is presently operating the new All-in-One system and issuing the redesigned license and identification cards in Waldorf only. The new license and I.D. cards will be available statewide by this summer. For additional information, visit the MVA online at www.marylandmva.com or contact 1-800-950-1682.

Coyotes in Greenbelt?

Coyotes, once associated only with the Great Plains of the Western states, have been gradually migrating eastward over the past century. Coyotes are now located in every state in the continental U.S. They have even been spotted in Rock Creek Park and in Central Park in New York City. Greenbelt's Public Safety Advisory Committee cautions that it is possible that coyotes could be in this area and offers safety information and tips.

A coyote is generally dark brown to light gray and weighs 25 to 50 pounds. They are primarily nocturnal and would normally be frightened of humans; however, contact with urban areas has made some animals more aggressive than usual.

Their diet adapts to whatever is available including fruit and nuts but they prefer small rodents and have on occasion caught small dogs or cats.

People spotting a coyote should resist the urge to approach it. According to the National Park Service most injuries caused by coyotes occur when humans get too close. Be safe, leave the area and notify Animal Control at 301-345-5417 or the police at 301-474-7200 or 301-474-5454 in an emergency.

\$100 REWARD FOR RECOVERY OF LOST CAT

Jasper is a large tomcat with gray and black tiger stripes on his back but his chin, chest, front legs and underside are entirely white. Jasper was last seen on Thursday, December 30 at the intersection of Ridge and Laurel Hill Roads. If you have information about Jasper, please call 301-614-0954 in the evening or 301-405-5804 during the day.



The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

Greenbelt Greet the New Year with Fun for the Whole Family

The City of Greenbelt and various sponsors pool their resources each year to provide a safe and fun-filled New Year's celebration for local residents. This year's shindig attracted young and old to an alcohol-free celebratory night filled with arts, music and community-building activities. The evening's festivities culminated in the Community Center gym which rocked with music by the Latin Jazz All Stars, John Hill and DC Motors as hundreds of Greenbelters welcomed in the New Year.

Below, Bridget Cornett, Mairead Alexander and Claire Alexander show off their wacky hair and face paint created by members of the Greenbelt Swim Team.



After four days of intensive rehearsal, the participants in Camp Cabaret performed at Greenbelt New Year. At left, they are (left to right): Scott Kincaid, Cody Sanders, Kelsey Hutchison, Joel Mason-Gaines, Madeline Bell (instructor), Evan Camara, Quilla Otto-Jacobs, Rachel Moore-Beitler (instructor), Mason Trappio, Christopher Fominaya (instructor), Cece Bell and Alexandra Butcher.

Below, you can't have a "Return to Emerald City" theme without having Dorothy (Julianne Cyr) and the Wicked Witch (Penny Smith). They are joined at the celebration by volunteers Bernie Giese, Aileen Tiplady and Eileen Peterson (holding Toto). Also roaming the Community Center halls was Karen Smith as the Scarecrow.



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

Chris and Hannah Butcher ring in the New Year in the gym at the Community Center.



PHOTO BY JAMES GIESE

AND THE WINNER IS . . .



BEFORE

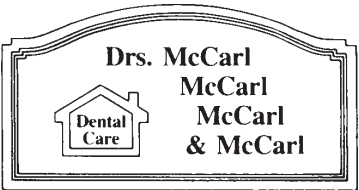
Mike Roberts of Greenbelt is the grand winner of the McCarl Dental Group Smile Makeover contest. Mike has spent years feeling self-conscious about his smile. His severely broken and decayed teeth affected his speech, appetite and overall well being. Providing Mike with an extraordinary smile was just the beginning; he now eats a variety of foods and his quality of life has greatly improved. "It's fantastic to be able to smile again, which I haven't done in a long time," Mike says. The McCarl Dental Group is pleased and proud to have been able to help a member of our community!



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Hospital Offers Foot Clinic for Diabetics

Doctors Community Hospital's Rehabilitation Department will provide free diabetic foot screening clinics on Thursday, January 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. on the hospital's campus at 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham.

The screening will include a foot assessment, an educational video on foot care and a question-and-answer session. The program accommodates approximately 20 participants, accepted by appointment only.

Diabetes is a lifelong disease that can have many effects on the feet, including nerve damage, ulcers and sores, decreased blood flow and bone infection. Managing diabetes and having an annual foot screening can help prevent such problems.

To make an appointment to attend contact 240-965-8413.

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Mary Lou at 310-441-2662
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Single Family Home - Ridge Road

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This brick 3 bedroom townhome is just steps away from Roosevelt Center. Enjoy the benefits and convenience of Cooperative living! SOLD

Three Bedroom Townhome

One of the few GHI homes with a bedroom and full bathroom on the first floor. Remodeled kit., stacking w & d and fenced yard. SOLD.

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers

From the Photo Album

From time to time, we collect photographs of Greenbelt events and residents that are fun to pass along. Due to limited space, however, many of these never make it to press. Here are a couple that were too cute to pass up.



Big shoes to fill? Greenbelter James McMichael, Arlington County Deputy Sheriff, had a big costume to fill as a giant deputy at the Arlington County Fair. To show how tall he was, James posed with Greenbelt friends Barry and Mary Moien, below.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE MCMICHAEL

Girl Scout Cookie Sales Begin Friday

The 2005 Girl Scout cookie sale will run from January 7 through March 26 with a goal of selling 4.25 million boxes. Enthusiastic Girl Scouts will soon fan out to entice folks in the Greater Washington region – which happens to be home to the largest number of consumers of Girl Scout cookies in the nation.

The annual cookie sale benefits girls in many ways. Working as a team, they learn how to plan and achieve a goal, sales and marketing techniques, individual responsibility and money management. And troops are able to underwrite educational, service and fun activities that the girls plan for the year.

Brownies through Senior Girl Scouts will begin taking orders on January 7 and cookies will be delivered from mid-February through March. During March, Girl Scout troops will set up booth sales at area shopping locations.

Complete information of the 2005 Girl Scout cookie sale is available at www.gscnc.org/cookies2005/. Information also is available by calling the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital at 800-523-7898.

Greenbelt Artists At New Deal Café

The current show of Greenbelt artists at the New Deal Café will be extended through the month of January. Over 20 local artists have their work on display. People who have been too busy to see this exhibit should stop by before January 30. The monthly art shows at the New Deal Café are sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts, with a supporting grant from Prince George's County, arranged by County Councilmember Douglas J. J. Peters.

State Launches New Reading Initiative

Maryland students will soon be able to take advantage of an unusual form of literature not often associated with schools as they strengthen their reading skills. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), is developing an instructional toolkit that will allow schools to supplement traditional literature with comic books and graphic novels.

MSDE's new reading initiative is being assembled by a creative team that includes award-winning teachers, reading specialists, educational administrators, library specialists, comic book authors and publishers.

"Reading is a wonderful activity in all of its many forms," said Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools. "Our job as educators is to help children learn to enjoy reading, making it a pleasurable experience rather than a burden. By using nontraditional materials along with our regular materials, we believe students will become even more excited about reading."

Greenbelt, often on the cutting edge, has been offering an advanced project of this type for more than five years. Artist George Kochell (Mr. Geo) and teacher Beth Novick have been among those who have worked on a unique activity at Greenbelt Elementary School. There, students do not learn to read by using comic books, they draw and narrate their own comics and stories. Parents have reported that

their children have been inspired by this program.

Maryland's statewide project will not mandate comic books or replace traditional classroom materials. Rather, the program will provide options for teachers as they seek to encourage reading across the grade spectrum.

Diamond Comic Distributors and Disney Publishing Worldwide are partners with the state. Diamond has given the state a \$10,000 project grant to support substitute teachers and other costs associated with the pilot programs currently underway. The corporation also has provided thousands of dollars in materials to creative team members and pilot schools to help launch the project. Disney has agreed to provide materials for the elementary school roll-out and will be creating new titles for Maryland elementary programs.

Graphic literature has drawn increasing interest from educators. They can be used as powerful motivational tools, provide context for written text for students who have difficulty with visualization and provide reluctant readers with the foundations they need to move on to more challenging materials. Comic books have found their place in both remedial and gifted classrooms.

Plans are for the Maryland Comics Initiative Instructional Toolkit to be completed by June, with a roll-out of the program to state systems scheduled for fall of 2005.

2006 School Budget Includes Increases

Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Andre J. Hornsby has recommended a \$1.4 billion FY2006 operating budget to the Board of Education. The amount is a 12.1 percent increase over FY2005. The proposed budget priorities include improving high school assessment test results, major school improvement efforts, improving technology in the schools as well as student access to technology, expanding pre-kindergarten classes, enhancing the core curriculum with a focus on mathematics and science, providing appropriate staffing at the school level and providing salary improvements for all staff in accordance with contractual negotiated agreements.

The development process for the proposed budget included three public forums, held in October and November, to receive public input on budget priorities. The Board of Education will hold three public hearings in January, as well as public work sessions on the budget in January and February. In addition, the school system's website (www.pgcps.org) now includes a survey to gauge public opinion and gather feedback on budget

policies and priorities.

The FY06 proposed budget includes more than \$50 million in program improvements including: \$12.7 million in special education improvements; \$6.8 million to purchase new textbooks; \$6.3 million for instructional technology improvements; \$5.7 million to expand pre-kindergarten; \$2.1 million in science and math curriculum improvements; \$1.2 million for teacher certification; \$1 million for the system-wide purchase of school furniture, lab equipment and uniforms; \$800,000 for school security and \$300,000 in Choice Option Schools.

Under the "Bridge to Excellence Act" the school system needed to develop a five-year strategic plan to serve as the organizing document and driving force of the school system. Prince George's County Public Schools' "Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan" presents this long-range action plan. The goals, objectives and strategies presented in the plan are designed to focus on and direct school system decisions and actions over five years. The strategic plan is available to the public online at www.pgcps.org.

College Offers Home Schooling Courses

The Continuing Education Office of Prince George's Community College is offering several courses for home schooled students starting February 18 at the Largo campus and the Laurel College Center extension site. Courses include ceramics, painting and drawing, cartooning, Spanish, essay writing, math review, biology, current issues and technology exploration.

A course for prospective new

home schooling parents is offered on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon on the college's Largo campus. Taught by a parent dedicated to home schooling, this course provides an overview of the process and assists in determining whether home schooling is right for the family.

For more information call the Continuing Education Office at 301-322-0159.

DORS Opens Office for Blind

The Maryland Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) has established an office for Blindness and Vision Services. The new office expects to serve 2,200 blind and vision impaired people in the upcoming year.

Susan Schaffer will direct the office for Blindness and Vision Services. Schaffer, who is legally blind, has a long association with DORS, beginning in the 1970s, when she participated in DORS programs and services as a Montgomery County high school student. Since beginning employment at DORS, she has worked as a rehabilitation specialist, supervisor, training specialist, business support director and, most recently, as director of the Workforce and Technology Center.

The new office of Blindness and Vision Services will oversee the following DORS programs and services:

Rehabilitation counselors in DORS field offices throughout Maryland specialize in employment and independent living issues for people who are blind.

Rehabilitation teachers across the state deliver community-based services such as mobility training, household management skills and communication device training. These teachers also provide independent living training to individuals who have a vision impairment, are age 55 and over and not seeking employment.

The Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind, provides opportunities for individuals who are legally blind to operate vending, gift or food services businesses in public and private facilities.

Programs for individuals who are blind are located at the Workforce and Technology Center. These programs include academic evaluation and training, Braille training, orientation and mobility and peer support groups. More information can be obtained from DORS at 410-554-9385 or toll free at 1-888-554-0334.

Tax Tips from IRS

Earlier is better when it comes to working on taxes. Besides avoiding the last-minute rush, early filers get a faster refund. Get a jump on taxes long before the April 15 deadline rolls around by following some easy tips:

Gather all records in advance, including W-2s and 1099s. Keep a copy of each for future reference. Get the right forms. They are available around the clock on www.irs.gov in the Forms and Publications section.

Take plenty of time. Don't forget to leave room for a coffee break when filling out a tax return. Rushing can mean making a mistake and that can be expensive.

Double-check math and social security number. These are among the most common errors on tax returns and checking them reduces the chances of hearing from the IRS.

E-filing is easy. E-filing catches math problems, provides confirmation that the return has been received and gives a faster refund.

Don't panic. For problems or questions, the IRS is there to help. Try www.irs.gov or call the toll-free customer service number at 1-800-829-1040.